



# ELECTION FOCUS 2008



April 25, 2008

No. 4

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### [Kansas City Area Voters Ready for November Election](#) **Democrats, Republicans keeping current on candidates, issues (04-23-2008)**

Like their fellow citizens across the nation, Kansas City area voters differ in their political party affiliations and their preferred

presidential candidates, but they share worries about the U.S. engagement in Iraq and the state of the American economy. Gene Kennedy, who identifies himself as a lifelong Democrat, says he "strongly" supports Barack Obama for president, citing the candidate's youth and commitment to change. Kennedy said he is not comfortable with Hillary Clinton, terming her "too hard." But, he said, in the U.S. presidential election he will support the Democratic nominee, whoever he or she is. Shirley Kennedy, his wife and a strong Clinton supporter, also plans to support whomever the Democratic Party nominates.

### [Clinton's Pennsylvania Win Extends Democrats' Nomination Race](#)

**Both Democratic candidates for U.S. presidency claim successes in primary (04-23-2008)**

After spending more than six weeks crisscrossing Pennsylvania, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama each claimed success in the state's Democratic primary April 22. New York Senator Hillary Clinton won the most votes and a majority of Pennsylvania's



Barack Obama campaigns in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 19. He received two-thirds of Philadelphia Democrats' votes. (© AP Images)

158 pledged delegates, but she still trails Illinois Senator Barack Obama in the overall delegate count. Democrats award their delegates proportionally, so even though Clinton finished 10 percentage points ahead of Obama, she likely will receive only about 10 more delegates than Obama when the final votes are tallied, according to the Green Papers, an organization that tracks the awarding of delegates. Before the Pennsylvania contest, Obama led Clinton by 155 delegates.



Hillary Clinton celebrates her victory in the Pennsylvania primary, April 22. © AP Images

See also:

["Superdelegates May Decide Democratic Nominee"](#)

["Democratic Presidential Nomination Race Seen Ending by July 4"](#)

**Campaign Trail Talk** - your best source of information on the 2008 U.S. elections:

[http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/online\\_discussions/elections.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/online_discussions/elections.html)

More information is available at a special **U.S. Elections page** on America.gov:

<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/>

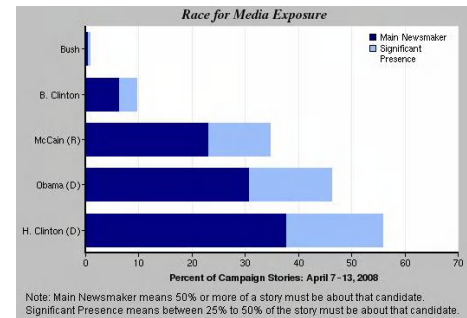
# POLLS

**The Day After the Pennsylvania Primary.** No support in national polling that either Clinton or Obama is more electable (GALLUP Poll, April 23, 2008) - Hillary Clinton's 54.7% to 45.3% win over Barack Obama in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary, while not necessarily surprising, gives rise to three key focus points from a national polling perspective as the campaign moves forward.

**Only 26% Say Obama Looks Down on Americans.** All three presidential candidates are generally viewed as respectful. (GALLUP Poll, April 22, 2008) - Most Americans reject the suggestion that any of the leading presidential candidates look down on the average American -- though more say it applies to Hillary Clinton (32%) than to Barack Obama (26%) or John McCain (22%).

## **McCain Doesn't Get Most Exposure, But Can't Be "Bitter" About Media**

Pew Research Center (April 15, 2008) - John McCain lagged significantly behind Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in the competition for media exposure last week. But when it came to the press narrative, the presumptive GOP nominee was the clear winner. His favorite subject, the Iraq war, was back in the news and he was cheered by some good poll numbers while the Democrats were entangled in damaging story lines.



**No Clear Advantage** - Pew Research Center (April 17, 2008) - Electability is an issue, and one that both Senators Obama and Clinton are likely to use to woo the superdelegates. But our polling suggests that neither candidate has a demonstrable advantage to tout.

# CAMPAIGN FINANCE

## **Campaign 2008: Campaign Finance** - *The Washington Post*

This database displays contribution and expenditure totals for the 2008 presidential candidates, based on filings made with the Federal Election Commission on March 31, 2008. All candidates who have announced their candidacies or have formed fundraising committees were required to file a report. The campaigns often file amendments, so the figures on this site are subject to change.

### **TOP FUNDRAISING CANDIDATES (AS OF MARCH 31, 2008)**



**Barack Obama**  
\$12,031,120 raised.



**Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
\$20,029,585 raised.



**John McCain**  
\$41,066,144 raised.

['opensecrets.org: '08 Presidential Fundraising](http://opensecrets.org) - The Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan, non-profit research group based in Washington, D.C. that tracks money in politics. The candidates for president have broken nearly all fundraising records, amassing more than \$800 million even before the two major parties choose their nominees for the November ballot. By some predictions, the eventual nominees will need to raise \$500 million apiece to compete—a record sum. To find out where all this money is coming from, click on the candidates' names below and explore the options to the left. The candidates now file campaign finance reports monthly. The reports for April are due May 20th.

## BEST of the WEB

### Keystone Primary - April 22, 2008



[Pennsylvania Primaries: The Path to Victory](#) (Washington Post, April 23, 2008)  
Explore the map to see how each candidate performed across Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

[Pennsylvania Primary Results](#) (New York Times, April 24, 2008)

[A Review of the Pennsylvania Primary](#) (RealClearPolitics, April 23, 2008)

[After Pa., the next battles: Indiana, superdelegates](#) (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 24, 2008)

Turning their attention to Indiana, site of a crucial May 6 contest, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama argued yesterday over how the undecided Democratic superdelegates should judge the race from here on.

[Take these candidates, please!](#) (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 23, 2008)

Six weeks of bowling and Bittergate and Pastorgate and nonexistent Bosnian snipers....and for what? The Pennsylvania results have essentially changed nothing. There is seemingly no cure for the chronic Democratic migraine - and the fear, among so many members, that they are tearing themselves asunder. Memo to the voters of Indiana and North Carolina: Take these candidates, please!

**CNN Election Center - Primaries and Caucuses – By State**  
[Full Pennsylvania Exit Poll](#)

### Think Tanks

#### Council on Foreign Relations:

[The Democratic Candidates put globalization on trial in the Pennsylvania Primary](#) (April 22, 2008)

Pennsylvania provided one of the biggest battlegrounds yet for an intensifying national debate on revitalizing the U.S. economy in a globalized world. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) won this round (Politico) on April 22 by a solid margin over Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) and exit polls showed Pennsylvanians viewing her as most capable of repairing the economy (CNN), their top concern. Obama, meanwhile, was expected to retain the overall edge in delegate votes needed in the contest to secure the party's nomination.

#### RealClearPolitics:

[McCain's Economic Speech in Pittsburgh](#) (April 15, 2008) - Economic policy is not just some academic exercise...and if I am elected president I intend to act quickly and decisively. We need reforms that promote growth and opportunity. We need rules that assure fairness and punish wrongdoing in the market. We need tax policies that respect the wage-earners and job creators who make this economy run, and help them to succeed in a global economy.

#### Brookings:

[The Political Geography of Pennsylvania: Not Another Rust Belt State](#) - The Blueprint Policy Series: April 2008. This report on the political demography and geography of Pennsylvania is the first in a series of reports on 10 key "purple" states in the 2008 election. Purple states are states where the current balance of political forces does not decisively favor one party or the other, as it does in the solid red (Republican) and blue (Democratic) states.



## Election Calendar

[2008 Republican Primary Schedule](#)   [2008 Democratic Primary Schedule](#)

State Primaries: May 6 [Indiana](#) - [North Carolina](#)

## ARTICLE ALERT

**Tell Me How This Ends?** *Time*, April 24, 2008 Either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama is going to capture the Democratic nomination. But how? A look at three possible scenarios shows why they could brawl all the way to Denver. [READ MORE](#)

**Can McCain Win a Third Bush Term?** By Terence P. Jeffrey *Human Events*, April 23, 2008

One of the most surprising things about the presidential election four years ago is that the already unpopular war in Iraq was not the top issue in voter's minds. Nor was it the top national security issue. To get elected, Sen. John McCain needs something similar to happen this year. To construct such a scenario, it is helpful to reconstruct what happened four years ago. [READ MORE](#)

### Political news and commentary:

[Is Obama Ready for Prime Time?](#) (Karl Rove, Wall Street Journal)

[McCain Faults Bush Response to Gulf Storm](#) (New York Times)

[Hillary Just Can't See That It's Over](#) (Toby Harnden, Daily Telegraph)

[The Low Road Catches Up with Obama](#) (Joe Klein, Time)

[What If She Wins the Popular Vote?](#) (Michael Barone, US News & World Report)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Discussion on U.S. Elections: "After Pennsylvania Primary"

**April 29 at 17:00 at the InfoUSA - University Library,  
Michalská 1, Bratislava**



Panelists - Milan Ježovica (M.E.S.A. 10), Jan Surotchak (IRI), and Prof. Kevin Deegan-Krause (Associate Professor of Political Science, Wayne State University) - moderated by Chip Laitinen (U.S. Embassy)

R.S.V.P. – E-mail: [arc\\_brat@state.gov](mailto:arc_brat@state.gov) or [socuvkao@state.gov](mailto:socuvkao@state.gov) by April 28, 2008

### Webchats with U.S. Experts: [U.S. Elections](#)

Join [America.gov's elections experts](#) **Michelle Austein** and **George Burkes** on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss the people, processes and issues that shape the U.S. presidential race. They will answer your questions and talk about the latest events on the 2008 campaign trail.



Date & Time: **May 6, 2008**, 09:00 a.m. EDT (1300 GMT)

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